

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/634,471

Applicant(s)

OSTERGARD ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Jean E. Lesperance

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed September 30, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 13-20, 26-38, and renumbered as 1-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

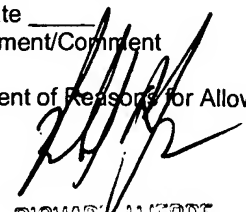
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


RICHARD WUERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2300

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed September 1, 2006 is entered and claims 1, 4, 13-20, 26-38 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, 13-20, 26-38 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claimed invention is directed to a double-sided keyboard for entering information in an electronic device.

Independent claim 1 identifies a uniquely distinct feature "wherein the electrically conductive members comprise a plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the circuit board to activate the circuit board for providing the signals, and wherein the dome-shaped segments are shared with the first and second plurality of keys such that each dome-shaped segment can be caused to make electrical contact with the circuit board by either one of the first plurality of keys or one of the second plurality of keys".

Independent claim 26 identifies a uniquely distinct feature "a second user interface disposed on the second side of the keyboard and capable of interacting with the circuit for providing further signal indicative of the information, wherein the circuit connector can be attached to the device connector for conveying the signals from the circuit to the device body either in a first connecting position such that the first side is

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oriented in a direction substantially the same as the device direction so as to allow the user to enter the information via the first user interface, or in a second connecting position such that the second side is oriented in a direction substantially the same as the device orientation so as to allow the user to enter the information via the second user interface”.

Independent claim 32 identifies a uniquely distinct feature “a second user interface disposed on the second side of the keyboard and capable of interacting with the circuit for providing further signal indicative of the information, wherein the circuit connector is electrically connected to the device connector for conveying the signals from the keyboard to the device body when the keyboard is attached to the device body, and wherein the circuit connector can be electrically connected to the device connector either in a first position to allow a user to access the first user interface, or in a second position to allow a user to access the second user interface”.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Bowen et al. (6,046,730) and Paajanen et al. (5,189,632).

The closest arts, Bowen et al. and Paajanen et al. as discussed above, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the above limitations obvious.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Lesperance whose telephone number is (571) 272-7692. The examiner can normally be reached on from Monday to Friday between 10:00AM and 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on (571) 272-7691.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

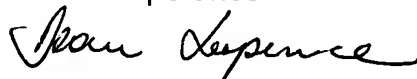
or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Jean Lesperance



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Date 9/30/2006



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600